



FALL 2019 NEWSLETTER

Sunday September 28th, marked the end of the Summer sailing season, but it is just the beginning of an exciting Fall Sailing Season at Block Island Community Sailing, Inc who honored its members and supporters with a Family Picnic, an introductory sailing experience in our Raven 24 sloops, and with an award presentation for top finishers in the BICS Regattas they held this summer.

Thursday Night Sailing Series

These events included the BICS Thursday Night Sailing Series, now in its 21th year, which offered island skippers and crews eight weeks of racing sailed each Thursday evening from July 11th to September 5th. Typical format was three 20-minute races each evening, in the Great Salt Pond, with the participating boats being scored under the Performance Handicap Rating Fleet scoring system. Henry duPont from Block Island Community Sailing got top honors, followed by Robert Closter sailing his J-24 and John Seidler sailing a BI Club Colgate 26. Special thanks to the BI Club Junior Sailing Staff for assisting with the on-the-water Race Committee,

BICS Thursday Night Sailing Series, 18 races sailed, Low Point Scoring, four highest scores thrown out

Pos	Boat	Skipper	Club	Total
1	Raven Lunatic (Raven 24)	Henry duPont	BI Community Sailing	17
2	Island Spirit (J/24)	Bob Closter	None	35
3	BI Club #2 (Colgate 26)	John Seidler	BI Club	38,5
4	Scarecrow (Raven 24)	Ted Merritt	BI Community Sailing	54
5	Whisper (Watch Hill 15)	Michael Rock	None	56.5

Mary D Regatta

Block Island's historic Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, a popular fund-raising event in the 1990s, was sailed last Saturday on Block Island Sound for only the fifth time since 2004. Seven racing yachts entered the regatta, which was organized, promoted and run by Block Island Community Sailing.

The race course this year was a windward, leeward course, 11 miles in length, from the start/finish line set just West of the New Harbor entrance channel, upwind to the Dicken's Point Buoy, off Cooneymus Cove, downwind to "1BI", the North Point buoy, and back upwind to the Start / Finish line. The Race Committee consisted of James Gallagher, the Principal Race Official, Ted Merritt, the Mark / Safety boat operator and Marty Schulman, who served as captain of the Race Committee boat in his Pursuit sport fishing boat.

For this regatta, the racing yachts are divided into two classes: Spinnaker, and Non-Spinnaker, or cruising class. Both classes started the race together for the beat up the West Side of the Island in 8 knot SW wind with Greg Slamowitz' J-111 "Manitou" rounding the windward mark first followed by Henry duPont on his Tripp 26, "RUSH", and Bob Closter on his J-24, "Island Spirit". The next leg to the North Point Buoy turned into a tactical battle with Manitou and RUSH heading out away from the Island

and "Island Spirit" hugging the shore. Staying inshore payed off because in the diminishing breeze, Bob Closter picked up his own shore breeze and was soon well ahead of the other boats in the fleet.

By this time, it became evident that the first boat would not finish the race by the published time limit of 3.5 hours which would mean that the race would have to be abandoned. The quick-thinking Race Committee saved the day by shortening the course by repositioning the finish line to the North Point Buoy. First over the line was Henry duPont on "RUSH", followed two minutes later by Greg Slamowitz on "Manitou", and six minutes later by Bob Closter on "Island Spirit" who beat all the other boats, handily on corrected time.

The regatta trophies were presented at the event after-race awards party held at Kimberly's Restaurant that evening. Special thanks go to the regatta Race Committee, and the regatta sponsors including the New Harbor Boat Basin and Kimberly's Restaurant who made this important fund-raising event for the Mary D Fund possible. This event has raised thousands of dollars for the Mary D Fund over the years.

BICS Mary D Fund Benefit Regatta, Low Point Scoring, Course Length 8.8 miles.

Non-Spinnaker Class

				Finish	Corrected
Pos	Boat	Skipper	Club	Time	Time
1	Island Spirit	Bob Closter	None	3:46:06	3:17:48
2	Blue Moon (Freedom 40/40)	Don Coxe	BI Yacht Club	3:51:13	3:33:36
3	Manitou (J-111)	Greg Slamowitz	BI Yacht Club	3:42:57	3:33:43
4	Richard Parker (Ensign)	Ray Torrey	BI Yacht Club	RET	RET
4	BIC #4 (Colgate 26)	Bob Greenlee	BI Club	RET	RET

Spinnaker Class

				Finish	Corrected
Pos	Boat	Skipper	Club	Time	Time
1	RUSH (Tripp 26)	Henry duPont	BI Community Sailing	3:40:18	3:23:08
2	Tenderly (Friendship 40)	Mark Masiello	NY Yacht Club	4:19:39	4:02:29

BICS Member Appreciation Awards Picnic

The BICS Awards Picnic and introduction to Sailing event participants were welcomed last Sunday by BICS Directors Jake Fiechter and family, Celine Davis, as well as Members Elizabeth Moss and George Davis who ran the Picnic, while Jake and Henry took a number of sailing enthusiasts out for a sail in the BICS Raven 24 sailboats. A grand time was had by all.

In addition to the Sailing Awards, BICS gave a special shout out to our sponsors including Commodore Jim Fiorato of the the Block Island Yacht Club for their generous support of our programs, and Justin Lewis, the Manager of the New Harbor Boat Basin, which served as the host facility for BICS. A Special Director of the Year award was given to Jake Fiechter for his outstanding financial and volunteer support of BICS. A lovely teak tray, with wood veneer image of a Raven 24, cast in resin, on a carbon fiber background, was awarded to Jake for his service to BICS by President Henry duPont.

Block Island Community Sailing was also recognized in a letter of appreciation from the Town of New Shoreham's Recreation Department for providing a summer camp sailing program for Camp Mohegan, the Island's Summer Camp for kids aged 7-11. The cost of program was generously donated by the Block Island Yacht Club as part of their sail training program, for year-round Island Families.



BICS Director of the Year Award: Jake Fiechter



Thursday Night Sailing, First Place: Henry duPont



Camp Mohegan Campers and Counselor with BICS Sailing Instructor Henry duPont